Belgian technology for producing fresh grass

1055. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a Belgian Technology (Agromat) which produces a tonne of fresh grass every day using a soil-less germination method;

(b) what are the project under implementation to increase green fodder availability during summer months and whether any overseas technology on green fodder production is under evaluation by Government; and

(c) whether Belgium has also offerred a grain-storage technology for use by the Food Corporation of India, which is claimed to eliminate storage losses to a considerable extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) To increase overall green fodder availability including during the summer months, two major schemes, namely, All India Coordinated Research Project on Forage Crops and centrally sponsored scheme on Food and Fodder development including Seed Production, are under implementation However, no overseas technology on this aspect is under evaluation.

(b) The Belgian technology for gain storage has been evaluated and not found suitable under Indian conditions.

Functioning of fish farmers development agencies in the country

1056. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fish Farmers Development Agencies established so far in the country and number of them district wise in Orissa and number of them functional so far;

(b) the activities undertaken by th Fish Farmers Development Agencies an achievements made thereunder so fa and

(c) to what extent women fro Fishermen communities are being invol ed in this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONA ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINI TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTR OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISH NA KUMAR): (a) 397 Fish Farmer Development Agencies (FFDAs) hav been sanctioned so far. Out of thes 17 FFDAs have been sanctioned for th districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Gan jam, Phulbani, Bolangir, Sambalpu Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Kalahand Poraput, Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Gajapat Rayagada, Nawarangpur and Malkan giri and Orissa and all of them are ope rational.

(b) The FFDAs select suitable wate area, arrange lease on long-term basi to identified beneficiaries, provide incen tives for construction of new ponds, re novation of ponds and lakes, runnin water fish culture, inputs, establishmen of hatcheries, aeratiors besides trianin the fish farmers and giving them exten sion support. So far these agencie have brought about 3.60 lakh ha. o water area under fish culture and train ed about 4 lakh fish farmers in improve methods of fish farming throughout th country. The national average pro ductivity of the fish farms under thes agencies is about 2075 kg./ha./year.

(c) As per available information ab out 42 per cent of the family member of beneficiaries under the FFDA prog ramme are women and they are actively involved in fresh water aquaculture.

Seed Research Centres in the Country

1057. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seed research centres working in the Country;

(b) the names of the places where these centres have been set up;